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News Release

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St. Paul man indicted for possession of child pornography

Protecting children from sexual exploitation is the primary goal of Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative that encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional task forces to investigate and prosecute cases that involve the sexual exploitation of children over the Internet.

One investigation has led to the federal indictment of a 57-year-old St. Paul man who was charged Feb. 5 with one count of possession of child pornography. Timothy Allen Cain's indictment alleges that on Feb. 7, 2007, he did knowingly possess one or more visual depictions involving minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct on a computer.

If convicted, Cain faces a potential maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Ramsey County Correctional Officer, the St. Paul Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the St. Paul Police Department's Sex Crimes Unit. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Erika R. Mozangue.

Project Safe Childhood (PSC) urges that law enforcement efforts be complemented by community-wide campaigns to assist victims of exploitation and to educate parents, other adults, and children about Internet safety.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, one in 33 children receives an unwanted sexual solicitation online each year. One in four children experiences unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material on the Internet each year. And, more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week. Moreover, recent research conducted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicates a strong correlation between possessing or distributing child pornography and committing sexual-contact crimes against children.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.